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OF WOKING

Annual
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1948

Urban District Council of Woking

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman:

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Medical Officer of Health:

N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:

A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

W. MONKS, M.S.I.A.

L. E. SNELLING, M.S.I.A.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1948

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Guildford Road,
Woking.*

21st June, 1949

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS GRAVES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health of Woking for the year 1948. The report has been prepared on the lines of that for 1947, as required by the Ministry of Health.

Since my last Annual Report momentous changes have taken place in public health administration since the coming into being of the National Health Service Act, 1946. Under this Act much of the medical work previously carried out by the Urban District, e.g. vaccination, immunisation, etc., is administered by the County Council which is now the Local Health Authority.

The report shows a considerable decline in the birth rate and this must surely be a matter of national concern. The economic situation and the housing shortage are factors which must influence the birth rate, and until ample housing accommodation is available and the cost of living materially reduced I see little hope of encouraging a very necessary increase in the birth rate.

A more pleasing aspect is the fall in the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis, only 47 cases being notified as compared with 68 in 1947. The actual number of cases which arose in the district this year was 35, a fall of 20 on the figure for the previous year.

New houses especially designed for elderly people are still a priority need and I can only repeat my appeal of previous years for consideration being given to the construction of small bungalows for this purpose and a qualified nursing service devoted to help these old people in their health problems.

The Health Department is a small but efficient unit, all of whom have worked well to contribute their share in the work of the year. I wish also to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support in our work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOOD LINZEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1948, 45,930.

Year	Houses	Population	Average No. per House
1891	1,584	9,776	6·2
1901	2,807	16,222	5·8
1911	4,072	24,808	6·0
1921	5,078	26,430	5·8
1931	6,853	29,950	4·4
1941	10,743	47,770	4·4

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to rate books, 366.

Rateable Value, £466,793.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,854.

Social Conditions.

Woking is fortunate to consist of areas mainly residential and agricultural and for those with the leisure to look around there is much joyment to be obtained by observing the character of the houses and the beauty of the surroundings. The 34-acre Park and the Open-Air Swimming Pool are additional amenities of real value to the residents.

It is to be regretted that so many of the population are inadequately housed, and, unless there is an early and considerable improvement in the housing position, the effects are likely to be evident in the health of the younger children.

The Commons and Open Spaces which form one of the principal amenities total 1,947 acres.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents is higher than for many years but is still a negligible figure.

Classification	Dec. 31st 1944	Dec. 31st 1945	Dec. 31st 1946	Dec. 31st 1947	Dec. 31st 1948
Male Adults ..	2	15	47	121	123
Male Juveniles	0	1	8	7	17
Female Adults	1	8	33	43	60
Female Juveniles	0	0	5	6	16
Totals ..	3	24	93	177	216

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1948.

Live Births:—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	685	335	350
Illegitimate	42	20	22

Birth Rate, 15·83

Still-births	14	9	5
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Rate per 1,000 total births, 18·89.

Deaths	486	249	237
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Death Rate, 10·58

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	26·13
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23·36
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	71·43
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	93
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1948.

	Male	Female
All causes	249	237
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis.. .. .	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	8	4
Other tuberculous diseases	—	—
Syphilis	—	—
Cancer	45	48
Diabetes	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	24	41

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1948—*continued.*

	Male	Female
Heart disease	74	68
Other circulatory diseases	13	10
Bronchitis	11	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	6
Other respiratory diseases	2	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Digestive diseases	2	8
Acute and chronic nephritis	7	11
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	9	4
Suicide	3	2
Road traffic accidents	2	2
Other violence	13	3
All other causes	19	18

Births.

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General during 1948 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was 355 males and 372 females, the birth rate being 15·83 per 1,000 of population. Of the total number of births 685 were legitimate and 42 illegitimate, or 5·77 per cent of the births.

In addition there were 14 still births, 9 male and 5 female.

Live Births for the Past 10 Years.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1939	656	15·80	15·0
1940	653	13·97	14·6
1941	702	14·69	14·2
1942	855	18·79	15·8
1943	812	18·58	16·5
1944	807	18·76	17·6
1945	735	17·49	16·1
1946	887	20·59	19·1
1947	865	19·61	20·5
1948	727	15·83	17·9

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 10 years, the natural increment for this year being 241.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 486—244 males and 237 females, equal to a death rate of 10·58 per thousand of the estimated population.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 127.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford	..	..	23
St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey	..	..	46
Sanatoria	..	..	1
London Hospitals	..	..	20
Other Hospitals and Institutions	..	..	37

There were 178 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 83 males and 95 females. Of these 55 males and 67 females died at Brookwood Mental Hospital.

Death Rate for the Past Ten Years.

Year	Woking Urban District	England and Wales
1939	8·27	12·1
1940	10·32	14·3
1941	10·78	12·9
1942	10·81	11·6
1943	10·05	12·1
1944	10·86	11·6
1945	10·80	11·4
1946	10·63	11·5
1947	10·47	12·0
1948	10·58	10·8

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	93
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	142	} 230
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	65	
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	23	
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	17	} 40
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	18	
Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	5	
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	..	..	..	..	12	

Cancer

Cancer and malignant diseases were responsible for 93 deaths or 19·14 per cent of total deaths.

Deaths from Cancer.

Year	Total deaths	Cancer deaths	Percentage
1939	373	58	15·55
1940	508	73	14·37
1941	515	80	15·53
1942	492	81	16·46
1943	439	81	18·45
1944	467	77	16·49
1945	454	67	14·76
1946	458	68	14·85
1947	462	62	13·42
1948	486	93	19·14

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.

There were 230 deaths due to Heart and Circulation. This figure represents 47·32 per cent of the whole deaths.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Year	Total deaths	Heart Disease deaths	Percentage
1939	373	131	35·12
1940	508	166	32·68
1941	515	184	35·73
1942	492	186	37·80
1943	439	155	35·31
1944	467	172	35·03
1945	454	174	38·33
1946	458	211	46·07
1947	462	205	44·37
1948	486	230	47·32

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases.

There were 17 deaths due to Pneumonia, 18 to Bronchitis, and 5 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 40 or 8·23 per cent of total deaths.

Year	Total deaths	Bronchitis, etc. deaths	Percentage
1939	373	28	7·51
1940	508	63	12·40
1941	515	70	13·59
1942	492	47	9·55
1943	439	51	11·62
1944	467	54	11·56
1945	454	59	12·99
1946	458	47	10·26
1947	462	57	12·34
1948	486	40	8·23

Deaths due to Violence.

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

Road Traffic deaths	..	..	4
Drowning ..	..	..	4
Fractures owing to falls ..	..	..	6
Other causes	..	..	6

In addition to the above there were 5 suicides.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 19 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 26·13 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 71·43 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Year	No. of deaths under 1 year	No. of deaths under 2 years due to Diarrhoea & Enteritis	No. of live Births
1939	31	1	695
1940	26	1	738
1941	30	1	1,034
1942	34	2	855
1943	30	—	812
1944	35	4	807
1945	23	1	735
1946	24	—	887
1947	26	4	865
1948	19	1	727

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total No. under 1 month
Prematurity	6	—	—	—	6
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	2	1	—	—	3
Con. Cystic disease of liver	1	—	—	—	1

Cause of death	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho-pneumonia ..	—	1	1	—	2
Gastro-enteritis	—	1	—	—	1
Heart disease	1	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1
Hyperpyrexia	—	1	—	—	1

Year 1948

	Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population									Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live births	Still births	All causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Ac. Polio-myelitis and Polio-enceph.	Pneu-monia	Tuber-culosis	Whoop-ing cough	Diph-theria	Influ-enza	Infants under 1 year	Diar-rhoea
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.41	0.51	0.02	0.00	0.03	34	3.3
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.38	0.59	0.02	0.00	0.03	39	4.5
148 Smaller Towns (Resident popns. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.36	0.46	0.02	0.00	0.04	32	2.1
London Administrative County ..	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.63	0.01	0.01	0.02	31	2.4
WOKING URBAN DISTRICT (Popn. 45,930) ..	15.83	0.30	10.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.26	0.02	0.00	0.00	26.13	1.37

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) in the ordinary course of events is sent to The Royal Surrey County Hospital Laboratories, Guildford, for examination.

Samples of milk and water for bacteriological examination are sent to the laboratories of The Public Health Laboratories, Epsom.

Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from:—

Sharrard House, Heathside Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2295), which is operated directly by the County Council.

The following additional facilities are still available:—

(a) British Red Cross Society, Ambulance Station, Boundary Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2369), for accident and removal of cases to and from hospitals.

(b) Ottershaw Joint Isolation Hospital Board, Ottershaw (Tel. Ottershaw 30), used for removal of cases of infectious disease to and from the hospital.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

County Council Health Visitors undertake home visits required under the various schemes of the Surrey County Council, including Ante-Natal and Post-Natal supervision.

District Nurses who are affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Surrey County Nursing Association, are provided by the Woking Health Society in the parts of the Urban District known as Woking, Old Woking, Horsell, Sutton Green, Mayford Green and Anthony's. During 1948 the number of cases attended was 717 (12,766 visits).

(d) **Hospitals.**

There have been no changes or developments with regard to the hospital facilities in the district. They are as follows:—

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Clinic for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Woking Dispensary, Clarence Avenue, Woking.

The Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases situated at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

Mental cases are received at the Mental Hospital, Brookwood.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action during the year under section 47 of this Act.

Ottershaw Isolation Hospital.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1948:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	29 cases
Diphtheria	..	..	1 „
Measles	..	..	11 „
Mumps	..	..	3 „
Whooping Cough		..	6 „
Poliomyelitis	..	..	3 „
Other Diseases	..	..	13 „
Total	..		<u>66 cases</u>

MATERNITY.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Welfare.

The excellent Maternity Home maintained by the Woking Health Society in Heathside Road, continued its invaluable service. 54 beds are kept, and during 1948, 1,392 patients were admitted as compared with 1,472 in 1947. 558 patients were admitted from Woking Urban District. Of the total, 643 were delivered by midwives, and 610 by doctors, the average duration of stay being 11.34 days. The operations carried out consisted of 76 Caesarean Sections. 1 Puerperal Pyrexia case occurred, being a person admitted from outside Woking Urban District.

The County Council contributed to the maintenance of 293 patients and grants are also obtained from the Ministry of Health.

Midwives.—The Home is an approved training school for midwives and 31 nurses were trained and passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives' Board during the year. 2 midwives serve the district and attended 107 cases. The number of visits made totalled 2,041.

Clinics.—Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The County Council hold clinics at the Home every Friday morning, Wednesday afternoons, and 2nd Monday mornings each month. Baby Clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoons.

Attendances:—

Ante-natal Clinic	..	..	..	..	2,271
Baby Clinic	..	..	..	..	3,270

OTHER.—The Woking and District Victoria Hospital admitted 1,457 in-patients. Out-patient attendances totalled 17,755 including casualty cases, and 5,931 X-Ray examinations were made during 1948.

WATER SUPPLY.

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking Water Company's mains were extended 881 yards in the Urban District during 1948, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 100 yards.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

Eight samples of Company water were taken and all were found to be satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically.

Wells.—Twenty-nine houses are still dependent on shallow wells, numbering 24, for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Of the total, 22 houses served by 15 wells could be connected to the mains. The remainder are too remote to make main supply practicable.

Rivers and Streams.—Administration of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts is carried out by the Thames Conservancy Board.

Food Poisoning.—No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence and Control.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 44 Scarlet Fever cases during the year, 29 of which were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, there being no deaths.

Ward	Number of Cases	Deaths	Nursed at Home	Admitted to Hospital
Byfleet	6	—	2	4
Chertsey Road	7	—	1	6
Goldsworth	—	—	—	—
Horsell North	2	—	1	1
Horsell South	5	—	1	4
Knaphill & Brookwood	1	—	1	—
Maybury & Mt. Hermon	9	—	2	7
Pyrford	1	—	1	—
St. John's	2	—	—	2
Sutton & Bridley	1	—	1	—
Woking Village & Mayford	10	—	5	5
	44	—	15	29

Diphtheria.

There were 9 cases of Diphtheria.

Ward	Number of Cases	Deaths	Nursed at Home	Admitted to Hospital
Byfleet	—	—	—	—
Chertsey Road	—	—	—	—
Goldsworth	—	—	—	—
Horsell North	—	—	—	—
Horsell South	1	—	—	1
Knaphill & Brookwood	8	—	—	8
Maybury & Mt. Hermon	—	—	—	—
Pyrford	—	—	—	—
St. John's	—	—	—	—
Sutton & Bridley	—	—	—	—
Woking Village & Mayford	—	—	—	—
	9	—	—	9

Infectious Diseases, 1940.

[illegible]

Diphtheria Immunisation.

561 children were immunised during the year as shown in the following table:—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Number completely immunised</i>		
Brookwood C. Primary	17
Goldsworth C. Primary	72
St. John's C. Primary	83
Knaphill C. Secondary	50
Westfield C. Primary	52
			<hr/> 274
Pre-School Age Children	287
			<hr/>
Total	561
			<hr/> <hr/>

Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

No. of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31/12/48

Age at 31/12/48 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-43	10-14 1934-38	TOTAL Under 15
Number Immunised	19	292	322	335	360	2,384	2,700	6,412
Estimated mid-year child population, 1948	3,785					6,661		10,446

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172.

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 ..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 ..	1	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
25-35 ..	6	8	—	—	1	1	—	—
35-45 ..	6	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
45-55 ..	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	24	21	2	—	8	4	—	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 47, as will be seen from the following table.

1. Number notified by General Practitioners	..	..	18
2. Number notified by Institutions	..	..	17
3. Number transferred to Woking	..	..	12

The actual cases arising in the District numbered 35.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were notified during the year.

Smallpox.—No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. Frequently contacts of cases occurring on board ship from the East arrive in this District; each case requires visiting and observation.

Pneumonia.—During the past year 6 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 17 deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fever.—There were 2 cases notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—There were no cases notified.

LABORATORY WORK.

During the year the following examinations were made by The Royal Surrey County Hospital:—

53 swabs for suspected Diphtheria, etc.

14 specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

SCHOOLS.

Most of the Schools are of modern construction and all have water-closets drained to the sewers.

There is close co-operation with the School Medical Service of the Surrey County Council. The Regulations with respect to exclusion from school of infectious cases and contacts are strictly observed. The Head Teachers of the schools notify the Medical Officer of Health of absences from school of children suffering from any disease or ailment.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in the Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. Bacteriological and chemical examination of the water proved it to be satisfactory. During 1948, the number of admissions were 71,046 as against 79,035 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.

RAINFALL (INCHES), 1948.

Records taken at Goldsworth Road Depot.

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of days of Rainfall	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall Recorded
		Amount	Date		
January	4.33	0.51	23rd	22	19
February	1.19	0.39	3rd	11	9
March	0.71	0.57	31st	5	3
April	1.55	0.39	3rd	12	8
May	2.28	0.28	23rd	12	11
June	3.05	0.86	9th	15	12
July	0.89	0.24	4th	9	6
August	2.75	0.80	7th	13	11
September ..	1.39	0.83	12th	8	5
October	2.10	0.40	25th	12	8
November ..	1.74	0.60	6th	10	8
December ..	3.23	0.85	31st	18	15
Total	25.21	0.86 in. on June 9th		147	115

Council Offices, Woking.

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of Days of Rainfall	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall Recorded
		Amount	Date		
January	3.89	0.51	23rd	24	19
February	1.12	0.26	21st	10	7
March	0.62	0.50	31st	3	3
April	1.32	0.38	3rd	11	7
May	2.35	0.26	23rd	13	12
June	3.60	1.15	9th	14	10
July	0.93	0.24	4th	9	6
August	2.94	0.82	7th	14	10
September ..	1.44	0.84	12th	6	6
October	1.94	0.40	25th	12	9
November ..	1.45	0.60	6th	9	7
December ..	3.18	0.87	31st	19	15
Total	24.78	1.15 in. on June 9th		144	111

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS GRAVES AND GENTLEMEN,

During the year under review difficulties in securing the completion of repairs to dwellings have increased rather than decreased with a consequent increase in the administrative time used to achieve satisfactory results. The cost of labour and materials continues to increase whilst rents remain at the 1939 level, many owners thus finding themselves in genuine difficulties in meeting the cost of necessary repairs. The Sanitary Inspectors Association has advocated a system of rent increase based upon the classification of property according to the standard of fitness, and I feel certain that a system on these lines is necessary if we are to see dwellings restored to the standards which we all desire.

The report shows the marked attention which has been given to the sampling of milk, ice cream and water; this has formed part of the work devoted to food hygiene generally. Woking traders experience their share of difficulty over labour and equipment, but in spite of these there is evidence of a genuine desire to attain high standards and many of them are to be commended upon their achievements.

On the 1st November the Council accepted delegated powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and two Rodent Operators are now employed. The advantages gained by administering this work locally are already obvious.

Wage increases and heavy expenditure on new vehicles is reflected in the rising cost of the cleansing services, although a net cost of 20/6 per ton for collection and disposal must compare favourably with other areas. The policy of the Council is clearly to provide the town with modern hygienic collection and disposal coupled with economy of operation, and decisions recently taken should show worth-while results within the next two years.

The organisation and supervision of staff employed on cleansing services is not achieved successfully over a whole year without many varied problems arising. Although we have our full share of these in Woking our employees are of an excellent type and I must pay tribute to the willing manner in which the men have carried out my instructions at all times.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the confidence which you have placed in me, a confidence which has enabled me to work under extremely pleasant conditions.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. DAVIES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1948:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	43
Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts	734
Premises inspected other than above, including inspections after complaint, infectious diseases, etc.	898
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	120
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	235
„ „ Bakehouses	86
„ „ Tent and Van Dwellers' Encampments	23
„ „ Factories	73
„ „ Food Premises	579
Overcrowding, Housing Act, 1936	34
Inspection of meat and unsound foodstuffs	226
Rodent infestation	502
Miscellaneous	147
Inspections	3,700
Re-Inspections	6,723
	<u>10,423</u>

(b) Notices served:—

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year ..	987
Number of Statutory Notices served	118
1. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75	61
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93	42
3. Under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	15

Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

Rooms cleansed	91
Wall plaster renewed or repaired	94
Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	47
Floors repaired	198
Lighting and ventilation provided	9
Doors repaired or provided	26
Window sashes and frames repaired or provided	88
Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired	2
Stoves and grates renewed or repaired	39
Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired	35
Sinks renewed or repaired	10
Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired	24
Pail and water closets cleansed, provided or repaired	65
R.W.P.s provided or repaired	25

Improvements effected (Cont.)

Drainage opened and cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	37
Drainage repaired	..	..	..	..	..	27
Back yards paved	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sanitary dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	655
Eavesgutters provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	37
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	79
Pointings renewed	..	..	..	..	..	10
Renderings, weathertilings provided	..	..	..	..	..	38
Brickwork renewed	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dampness remedied other than above	..	..	..	..	..	23
Wholesome supply of water provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defects remedied at:						
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	17
Meat and Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	7
Factories, Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses and Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	18
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	9
Number of samples of milk taken for analysis	..	..	..	..	..	100
,, samples of water taken for analysis	..	..	..	..	..	73
,, samples of ice-cream taken for analysis	..	..	..	..	..	107
,, samples of other foodstuffs, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	14
,, new houses certified as having a wholesome supply of water	..	..	..	..	..	82
,, verminous rooms fumigated, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	163
,, rooms disinfected after cases of disease	..	..	..	..	..	111

CAMPING SITES.

No. of sites used for camping	..	..	..	..	..	1
Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estimated number of campers resident at one time	..	..	..	..	..	..

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 29 houses, including 12 Council houses, were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs. The method of disinfection usually employed is spraying with Zaldecide.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	100	28	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	226	45	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	326	73	12	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12	12	1	7	—

HOUSING.

I.—*Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.*

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made:—

(a) Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
(b) Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	77

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925:—

(a) Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 77

II.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

61

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.*

- (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..	..	..

- (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..	..	..

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices of Time and Place at which the question of making a Demolition Order will be considered (Section II (1))	—
(4) Number of undertakings to carry out works accepted ..	—
(5) Number of houses rendered fit	—
(6) Undertakings cancelled—the works having been carried out ..	—

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	146
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	278
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	1,051
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	134
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	28
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	196
(d) Cases in which dwelling-houses became overcrowded after steps were taken for the abatement of overcrowding	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Production.—The number of cowkeepers within the District at the end of 1948 was 28 as against 27 in 1947.

There are 9 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and also 8 licensed for the production of Accredited Milk.

Distribution.—Of the 28 cowkeepers, 5 are also retailers.

Control.

During the year 235 inspections were made of cowsheds and dairies and 17 defects were remedied.

One hundred samples were taken from farms, shops and roundsmen for bacteriological examination: 66 Pasteurised Milk, 16 Tuberculin Tested Milk, 9 Accredited Milk, 9 Ordinary Milk. Of the samples taken 16 failed to pass the required tests.

Bac. Coli were found in 6 of the samples examined.

Ice Cream.

Fifty-eight premises were registered for the sale of ice cream and 6 for the manufacture of ice cream.

One hundred and seven samples of ice cream were collected during the year, of which 40 were classified in Grade 1, 32 in Grade 2, 28 in Grade 3 and 7 in Grade 4. Non-faecal bacillus coli (in 1/10 ml.) were present in 50 of the samples obtained.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are five licensed private slaughterhouses in the district. These are regularly inspected and all carcasses of animals slaughtered locally are examined.

All shops, stores, vehicles and places where food is prepared are visited regularly to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 2 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. 20lbs.

The amount of food surrendered is made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.	lb.		T.	C.	Q.	lb.
Meat	—	10	0	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	Cheese	—	—	1	1
Wet Fish	—	12	1	19	Bacon	—	—	1	20
Fresh Vegetables ..	—	—	3	12	Tinned Meat ..	—	6	0	27
Cereals	—	1	1	27	Tinned Fish ..	—	2	3	21
Dried Fruit	—	—	2	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tinned Vegetables	—	3	1	15
Preserves	—	3	2	9	Tinned Fruit ..	—	3	0	23
Dried Milk	—	3	1	11	Tinned Soup ..	—	—	1	24
Poultry	—	—	3	20	Miscellaneous ..	—	1	1	5
Fresh Fruit	—	3	2	24					

In addition 656 tins of milk, 321 fish cakes and 634 eggs were surrendered

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	6	2	201
Number inspected	—	—	6	2	201
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.99

Adulteration.

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council, who have kindly supplied the following list of samples taken during the year in the Woking district.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prose-cutions	Convic-tions
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
Food:								
Milk	57	8	65	2	—	2	—	—
Chocolate Spread ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Ex-tract	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee Extract	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cooking Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dried Egg	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Cakes	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Flour Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit Drink Powder and Crystals	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit Pectin	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gelatine	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mustard	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sausages	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
Sausage Meat	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits	6	—	6	1	—	1	1	1
Vinegar	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	—
White Pudding	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
DRUGS:								
Bicarbonate of Soda ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Seidlitz Powders	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	70	25	95	5	1	6	1	1

MOSQUITO CONTROL

In accordance with the instructions of the Public Health Committee extensive measures were introduced during the year for the control of mosquito breeding. The problem was considered in some detail and a survey first made covering semi-permanent pools on the various commons, many miles of ditches, the seven miles of the Basingstoke Canal which passes through Woking and numerous ponds. The evidence collected proved conclusively that much breeding was taking place in rainwater tanks, water butts and disused receptacles generally. Apart however from offering advice, the resources of the Department were insufficient to deal with private properties.

A larvicide was then sought capable of being used in large quantities, of lasting effect, and harmless to fish life; the chief difficulty experienced was in satisfying this last requirement. It was finally decided to use Malariol H.S., a product of the Shell Chemical Co. A problem arose in the case of the Basingstoke Canal, where it was necessary to spray 7 miles of waterway approximately 35 ft. wide at reasonable intervals of time. The task of carrying heavy equipment and stocks of insecticide over so great a distance, the width of the canal being greater than the effective range of the spray, and the impracticability of calculating wind direction at very short notice, were difficulties which were eventually overcome. The manipulation of a boat through locks and the heavy work entailed through using oars in a weed-choked waterway were obstacles experienced throughout the season, and only overcome by the enthusiasm of the staff employed on the work.

The materials used, coupled with the method of application, produced in clear waterways an effective and valuable result, and much satisfaction was felt. In the case of the Basingstoke Canal the effectiveness was reduced by the deplorable conditions of neglect resulting in extensive growth of weed and other undesirable vegetation.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The National Assistance Act of 1948 placed upon the local authority the responsibility for burial of persons who have died, and for whom no suitable arrangements for burial have been made.

In Woking this became an additional duty of the Sanitary Inspector and by the close of the year twelve funerals had been arranged. Eleven of these were deaths of aged people occurring in the Brookwood Hospital.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The staff employed during 1948 on this work was as follows:—

General Foreman	..	..	..	1
Disposal Foreman	..	..	..	1
Collection of Refuse	..	..	..	33
Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	8
Salvage .. ..	..	..	..	5
				<hr/> 48 <hr/>

As a result of the re-organisation of the previous year, materially assisted by the delivery during the year of three new machines, the weekly collection of refuse was fully maintained, even during all holiday periods.

The number of bins required to be emptied continues to increase, and over 13,900 are now emptied weekly. This figure is more than 1,000 in excess of the 1939 figure.

During the year negotiations were completed whereby a further nine acres of land adjoining the present site became available for refuse tipping. It is thus pleasing to report that no problems in regard to controlled tipping sites should occur for a very considerable time to come.

During January and February a salvage campaign was held. 31 lectures were given to school children, members of Women's Institutes and Boy Scouts. From February 2nd-14th a special Exhibition was held in the Grand Theatre, depicting the various uses to which wastepaper is put.

Salvage.

In January, a bonus scheme for wastepaper collection was introduced. Under this scheme a bonus is shared between the employees, representing 50 per cent of the gross income from wastepaper sales in excess of £750 per half year, the bonus being increased to 75 per cent on all income over £1,000 per half year.

Whatever may be the merits or otherwise of incentive payments for work done, the effect of the bonus award is clearly reflected in the tabulation which follows. Whereas there is a continued decline in the tonnages of salvageable materials retrieved, the tonnage of wastepaper collected shows an increase of 68 per cent over the previous year.

The main totals of salvage sold during the year were:—

Wastepaper	..	..	..	380½ tons
Iron Scrap (and tins)	..	..	..	23½ „
Non-ferrous metals	..	..	..	3¼ „
Textiles	..	..	..	20¼ „
Bottles and Jars	..	..	..	25½ „
Bones	..	..	..	1 „

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Cesspools are emptied regularly throughout the district by a staff of eight men operating two 750-gallon S.D. cesspool emptiers and two 750-gallon Dennis cesspool emptiers; 4,886,400 gallons of cesspool sewage were deposited in sewers or disposed of on farm land during the year.

Cesspool emptying is probably the most expensive of all Council services when the cost is considered in relation to the work done. Of each working day approximately 40 minutes only is occupied in the actual process of emptying cesspools, the balance of the day being spent in coupling and uncoupling hose, and transporting loads of sewage to points of discharge often miles distant from the cesspool being emptied. It is an unpleasant service which often creates more nuisance from smell to the occupiers than is experienced from the overfull cesspool itself.

Over 150 pail closets still require to be emptied, and the best that can be said of this service is that it has to be tolerated. It is an unhappy job for both employees and householders. With the change of outlook on the part of workers it has become increasingly difficult to obtain staff to carry out these tasks.

One looks forward earnestly to the day when the bulk of the houses concerned are provided with main drainage.

WASTE FOOD COLLECTION

The collection of kitchen waste from the street bins maintained by the Council is now carried out directly by the pig and poultry keepers concerned. The scheme involves no financial loss on the part of the Council and possesses the advantage that the bins are emptied at much more frequent intervals.